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## THE WARNING TO "TOURISTS"

David Burg writes: "Brooke's trial will be a good warning to those who, visiting us as tourists, count upon fixing some sort of dirty deal in our country and then getting out with impunity". In these words *Pravda* commented on the deterrent value of a five-year prison and labour-camp sentence on the Holborn lecturer in Russian. The newspaper did not mince its words in giving the reason why the trial was staged: "Brooke's example should help such 'gentlemen' to treat attractive offers from bourgeois intelligence services more circumspectly." That neatly summed it up: Brooke was an example to others, having confessed to being a courier for the NTS.

There is a good deal of evidence that the NTS has developed ties in the Soviet Union over the last few years. Its weekly newspaper *Posev* (The Sowing), published in Frankfurt, had had several news scoops which could have only come from inside the country. For instance, it was the first to report bloody riots against the increase of meat and milk prices in the southern Russian town of Novochoerkask in June, 1962. *Posev* has also been publishing details about farming and working conditions in various areas, about local prices and about the moods of the population in a quantity and quality which is almost impossible to fabricate. Even more important, the NTS has been smuggling out works of dissident Russian writers which are banned for political reasons and printing them in their literary quarterly *Grani* (The Facets).

How are the NTS connections inside Russia organised? Police controls in the country are tight, and the likelihood of failure is very high. The NTS has devised ingenious methods to cover these difficulties. Every potential member is first approached individually through innocuous-looking

letters from abroad; then, if his response is promising, through letters posted inside the country by couriers such as Brooke. (There is no wholesale censorship of internal mail in the Soviet Union, merely secret police surveillance of communications to and from suspected persons). Even when fully trusted, an NTS member is not put in touch with other members in his area. His only connections are by post and sometimes radio with the headquarters in Frankfurt. His functions are to inform them and to carry out their instructions, to form a group of sympathisers without actually revealing his membership in the NTS and, less realistically, to wait for a revolutionary D-Day when he would be able to emerge from the underground and to engage in direct and open action. Every man is a separate "revolutionary molecule". The "molecular" structure reduces the effect of a failure such as Brooke's to the minimum.

The organisation has a long and chequered history. When it was first formed 35 years ago it was mainly White Russian. It was active during the last war in the German occupied parts of the USSR, originally collaborating with the invaders, then putting up a third force slogan: Neither Stalin, nor Hitler. As a result most of the older leading members of the NTS were killed in German concentration camps. Today, it mostly consists in the West of former Soviet citizens who fled during and after the war. The aim of the NTS is to replace the Communist Party dictatorship in Russia by some sort of a presidential democracy and the rule of law. But it does not advocate a restoration of full scale capitalism, preferring a mixed economy. Obviously the programme, however unattainable it may appear to some, is attractive to non-Russians like Mr Brooke who have studied Russian, are in love with all things Russian and particularly Russian literature, but detest the present Communist regime. The NTS vitally depends on these foreigners travelling to the Soviet Union for its connections. Last week's Moscow trial was primarily an attempt to check them.